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JAN TOWN

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CREMATION OF AN ALASKAN. An Interesting, Though Startling Ceremony-A Cemetery.

We found the house of mourning a few doors further on, and heard the sound of the beating staffs of the mournors as they kept time to their mournful singing. We opened the door and entered. The room had been put in order for the occasion, and hung with draperies, the end opposite the door, where the dead man was set up, being hung with the American flag. About fifty Indians, men, women and children, were seated around in the space between tho' fire and the counter or platform that runs all around the room, clad in their best blankets and preserving a solemn decorum. The covers had been taken I Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Men's Furnishfrom the four gayly painted pillars or ing and Fancy Goods. No. 11 Kaahumanu Street. talent posts that stood at the corners of the central square in the room.

The dead Indian sat upon the floor as if alive, was covered with a blanket, except his head, which wore a crown, and near by stood his mask and some other fixtures. His face was painted with red, and there was nothing ghastly or deathlike in his look. We remained for somo time, and were kindly treated. I was told that the singing, shaking of rattles, and beating of sticks on the floor continues all night, and that when the timo comes for cremating, the body is usually taken out through the opening in the roof-never through the front door-and

carried to the funeral pile. Although we were in attendance next day at 10 o'clock, we were too late to see the initial proceedings, for we met the mourners with their long sticks returning from the fire, and when wo reached it, beyond the ranch on the beach, the body was nearly consumed. A pile of wood, large sticks four or five feet long, had been laid up, corn-cobhouse-wise, and a smaller pile put inside, on which the body, wrapped in its blanket, was laid. Logs were then added above the body, crossing others at the corners thus produced, and a few Indians in attendance used long poles to keep the burning sticks in place; some women were seated in the grass not far away. There was no odor, and complete decorum and decency so far as behavior

was concerned.

Still, I believe, some of the missionaries combat the cremating custom, which I think worthy of perpetuation. After the body is burnt, the ashes are gathered and put in a box or trunk, and deposited with the personal possessions in the tomu, which is erected over a spot in their cemetery, and consists of a small square wooden house, the four sides of the roof running up to a peak; these toy houses, six to eight feet high, are gayly painted, and present a really picturesque appearance. I tried one day to make my way through an old part of their cemetery, but I found myself in a regular jungle of brush and undergrowth, and could make no headway. The old dead houses were falling into decay, and everything inside them had been stolen or perished, and grass and weeds grew up inside almost to the house roofs. The canoes of the dead, that had been hauled up by the houses, had also rotted; ravens croaked on all sides-it was almost dismal and funereal.

Ireland's National Emblem. The shamrock, which is the emblem of Ireland, is not known by its flower, but by its leaves; it is a little trefeil as is clover, but is very rare in England and not common in Ireland. Bentham, in his "British Flora," says that Oxalis acetocella, or wood sorrel, is the original shamrock; it has a pale pink, almost white, flower, which is said to be very plentiful in woods in April. He also states that purple Dutch clover (Trifoleum repens), which we all know so well, is now accepted as the shamrock. The tradition runs that St. Patrick, when preaching in Erin, gathered a shamrock and used it to illustrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. From this circumstance the trefoil has become accepted as the national emblem of the Emeral isle - Exchange.

- Sitka Cor. American Register.

When the Days Grow Short. [R. K. Munkittrick.] It will soon be too cold to play tennis, So the net will be taken from the court, and the balls used to put in the toes and heels of stockings during the darning process. The rubber-soled shoes will be used surreptitiously by the servant when banging up clothes, and the racket will be encircled by a delicate cardinal fillet, and hung up

on the wall of the library, like an "Alcaic lute." It is also too cold for swimming; but the boys swim, just the same. When a boy wants to swim, he cares nothing for the temperature; all Le wants is water. About the only time he doesn't take kindly to water is when he has to carry it in a pail for home consumption.

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